



The Redwood Writer

Volume 35, Issue 12 - June, 2007
PO Box 4687; Santa Rosa, CA 95402
www.redwoodwriters.org



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Redwood Branch Meetings
First Sunday of the month, 4-6 PM at
the Arts Council of Sonoma County
Gallery,
529 5th Street, Santa Rosa. Check the
website calendar for the most current
meeting and event information!

2007 Meetings

June 3 Elections for the 2007-2008
year. There is no meeting in July,
August picnic, September 9, October 7,
November 4, December 2

CWC Members' Websites:

Waldo Boyd www.sowp.org
Catharine Bramkamp
www.missbehaved.com
Alla Crone allacrone.com
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President's Column
By Linda C. McCabe

Deadlines. They are a powerful motivator for writers. Sometimes we cannot figure out what it is that we want to write until a deadline is staring us in the face. Then we find that we must nail our derriere into a chair and force ourselves to write.

That's the case with this column. I'm grateful that Karen Batchelor has agreed to run for the office of president of our club for the next year, but that means that this is my last president's column. For some reason, this fact has caused me to procrastinate writing it until the night before it is due. Almost as if I am cramming for final exams and pulling an all-nighter.

I wanted to say that I have enjoyed being your president for the last two years and I am grateful for the kind words of support that I have received from so many people that I admire.

Next year I intend on serving as Vice-president in charge of programs, so please let me know if there are specific topics of interest you would like for future meetings. This past year we've had some marvelous guest speakers on amazing topics, but some of the meetings came about due to serendipity. I can't always count on those happy sequence of events to happen just in the nick of time for the next month's meeting, so if you have any suggestions of topics and speakers, I welcome them.

May we all be blessed with inspiration, time to write, opportunities to have our work published, and appreciative audiences for our creative endeavors.

Linda

The 2007 Jack London Service Award

The Jack London Service Award is given out by the branches of the California Writers Club to recognize the contribution that individual members have made to their respective branches. The award is given every other year at a meeting/ceremony of the California Writers Club. There have been years where our branch has not chosen to give out the award.

This year, the board of directors is proud to announce that Catherine Keegan is our recipient. She took our website that had been languishing without updates and was essentially moribund and transformed it. She has done this with some direction from officers, but she has shown incredible initiative by going out of her way to cull information from a myriad of sources spending countless hours creating copious links to serve as a resource for writers. Our website now generates on average a thousand hits a month and acclaim from as far away as Mongolia. Similarly, the newsletter she



Shelley Singer has a new book, **BLACKJACK**, written as Lee Singer and starring Rica Marin, spy, torch singer, and mercenary in the dangerous, balkanized world of 2066. This scifi thriller is coming out in June, 2007, in hardcover, from Five Star Press. It is available on preorder from Amazon and Barnes and Noble. There will be a signing at Copperfield's in Petaluma, date still to be determined, sometime in July.

**From the presenters at our June 3rd meeting
"TRANSFORMING GRIEF INTO POTENT WRITING"**

Wouldn't we all like to transform our grief (loss of identity, purpose, innocence, a loved one) into inspiration for ourselves and others? How lucky that we as writers are able to craft stories from inside out, breathing life into our characters that touches the reader's heart. This is a hands-on workshop (for fiction and non-fiction) to elicit the creativity waiting to emerge from the depths of pain.

Testimonials:

"I liked the writing activities and the generous and compassionate leadership of the presenters (Lynn Scott and Teresa LeYung Ryan)."

"The empowerment to face my grief; I was very touched!"

"Thank you for creating such a nurturing and safe space; the visualization exercise was amazing."

"I liked the clear suggestions for what to do when my writing is blocked."

"The expertise of the presenters has given me motivation to continue my planned writing."



Teresa LeYung Ryan is a career coach for writers. She helps her clients identify their themes and polish their manuscripts, market themselves to agents and publishers, and map out their careers. Teresa's mother-daughter novel, *Love Made of Heart*, is archived at the San Francisco History Center, recommended by the California School Library Association, and is used in Sociology classes and Advanced Composition/English-as-a-Second-Language classes.

www.LoveMadeOfHeart.com info@LoveMadeOfHeart.com



Lynn Scott is the founder of RE-VISION YOUR LIFE'S PURPOSE. Lynn has spent thirty years counseling people struggling with past choices. She offers dialoguing with individuals or couples who wish to move from history into the present moment. Lynn Scott is the author of *A Joyful Encounter: My Mother, My Alzheimer Clients, and Me*, many short stories and poems, and a play. Also, she's a contributing author in *Fierce on Reality: an Anthology of Literature of Aging*.

www.LynnScottBooks.com LynnScott@mindspring.com

Books written by the presenters will be available for purchase at the June 3rd meeting.

SpecFic Critique Group Seeks Members: We're looking for SF, fantasy or other non-horror speculative fiction writers who could use a good critique and will give same. We will meet no further north than RP as one of our members is in San Rafael. Applicants must be able to send Word or rtf attachments via email and attend all meetings (within reason).

If you're interested, contact Ann Wilkes at azoreannie@sbcglobal.net.

The winners in the 2007 Youth Writing Competition's Character Sketches

1st Place - Amber Rose Reed

Tuesday's Gone

The boy with the strange eyes came in on Tuesday.

He was always in before six, after the 64 arrived from downtown. He was never on the bus, but he came in right after it, like clockwork, every Tuesday. Every week, he bought the same things: tuna, Wonder Bread, milk, and, on the off chance he had the money, pork chops too.

He rarely had the money.

It had gotten to the point that she almost asked for Tuesdays off; she would have, if she hadn't needed the money so badly, and if his eyes hadn't grabbed hers from the moment he'd walked into Hobart's that first Tuesday in January. His eyes were unnerving, haunted, dark shadows rimming the pale irises that always seemed to change— blue, then gray, then green depending on his mood; drooping or open wide depending on which drug swam through his veins.

This particular Tuesday, the drug of choice was speed. The indicators glared out at her through bloodshot, dilated eyes; his erratic, hasty movements were confirmation enough. She watched him enter and almost trip on the mat at the door. His short, jerky steps were unsuited to his long, thin legs. His hand shook as he grabbed one of their shopping baskets; the other was stuffed in his pocket.

She watched him until he disappeared down the bread aisle, and was so focused on waiting for him to reappear on canned foods that she didn't notice the customer in front of her until she heard the polite throat-clearing. She apologized and rang the old lady up, still waiting for him to emerge from the canned food aisle.

She didn't only watch him because Mr. Burke worried about shoplifters. The boy both scared her and fascinated her, and she liked following him with her eyes as he walked around the store with that halting walk, those choppy movements. He was outside of her world, a breach of the suburban normalcy she'd grown up with. There was nothing familiar in his scraggly blond hair, or in the patches of stubble that grew up on his cheeks, or in those *eyes*.

She smiled at old lady— who had changed her mind at the register, and decided not to get two heads of lettuce, but just the one, and decided against the tomato soup all together— and handed back her change, then ducked under the counter to store the unwanted items till closing.

As she rose, the first thing her eyes met was a loaf of Wonder Bread, being placed carefully down by calloused, long fingered hands. She started, but then stood the rest of the way up and swallowed hard. He was staring at her, and without looking away, he put the two cans of tuna down beside the bread. She didn't have to wonder where his milk money went.

She scanned the items quickly, trying not to meet his gaze. "Five seventeen," she said quietly. He gave her six crumpled dollar bills and she shoved them into their place in her drawer.

His lips cracked into a sickly smile as she handed him his change; he stuffed it in his pocket with a quick, "Thanks, Libby."

She didn't know what his name was. She just nodded with a polite smile, and he ducked out of the grocery after snatching up his purchases. She watched him walk away until her next customer came up, and even after that, kept one eye trained on the skinny form that drifted into the darkness.

Second Place - Dominic Ziegler

Those Wandering Threads

Adelaide fears not death, but being buried. She dreams of that first powdery breath of earth and wakes through the night clawing at nothing. Sometimes she gets up early in the morning, kneads dough with wax paper hands, makes cookies for her two children. John went over a bridge in his puttering station wagon in August of last year, and Violet had been declared missing by the police just weeks ago. When Adelaide kneads too roughly her hands ache, and she runs them through her thinning gray hair, forgetful of the dough.

Often she fills the whole rotting house with a maze of thread, like she used to do as a little girl; start around the couch, then behind the lamp, over to the window, then to the table, and so on through the whole house, never letting go of the end, always using the same pattern. Then she stands at the center and tugs the thread till the whole room constricts, tugs until she can't move or the thread breaks or a lamp comes tumbling down.

Those who live by clichés instead of their own eyes say Adelaide flutters, but that's a lie. She hums.

Once when Adelaide felt very angry at her children for leaving her all alone she kicked her thirteen-year old cat Sassafras off the second floor balcony, but she tells everyone he died peacefully in his sleep. Sassafras passed on right before her husband ran off with a traveling saleswoman of Mary Kay products. Since then Adelaide has taken to applying too much make up, caking it on by the ounce, pasting the whites and the reds against her loose, weak flesh.

She only reads mysteries, very methodically, and gets through about three in a year; she never varies from Agatha Christie and Dorothy Sayers and is sometimes surprised when the villains get caught. She mainly prefers to sit and think about her children, and about her work as a pharmacist's assistant.

Before her husband left she stayed very active, working on the car (her father had toiled under the town's surly mechanic), gardening, and going out in the evenings. After he eloped, she became excessively feminine, worrying about dirt and grime and appearing unladylike.

Strangely enough, she still hated children, and when John had announced the impending birth of his daughter, Adelaide was devastated, weeping, scratching at her face in desperation. But she quieted herself in the garage for a few moments while John made some tea, and she returned much more composed, in time to eat lunch. She still remembers that last meal. John, her favorite.

She hadn't liked Violet as much. Once when Violet had been very young Adelaide flushed the family goldfish down the toilet, even as Violet screamed that it was still alive, even as Adelaide calmly explained the fish wasn't breathing.

Adelaide breaks dishes and shakes when she thinks of what Violet had accused her of, the little brat, and she picks at her fraying shift, swaying, angry, then sometimes not there at all. Standing at the window, she smiles out at the world, regretful but without remorse, rolling up on her toes and back down to the heels, puzzling at how her life has turned out.

Adelaide doesn't go in the basement anymore.

Third place - Shawnie Miller

The Feeder of the Night-Thoughts

The most forgiving thing, perhaps, is the tendency of the human mind to forget the anguish of the past. After some time has gone by, an inward look shows that we can no longer recall some of the darker things in the world, the arcane occurrences that are most likely better left forgotten. Some may say that this peculiarity is simply a result of the dulling effects of Time, but it is really the handiwork of something much more complex. While memories can be things of comfort, like the golden nostalgias of summers long past, they can also dwell like fetid fruit, festering in ugly decay. It is these memories that are the fabric of nightmares, the makings of a wide-eyed stare in to the darkness at an unseen foe. It becomes necessary to smooth the lines of a worry in the mind, to soothe the aching and bitter thoughts that plague and hurt.

This is the reason for a great Being, a dweller of the subconscious perception. She resides in tepid thoughts, abridged on a brackish ripple in dream-musings. There is no beginning or end to her being, but an eternity of within-ness: a behemoth expanse of clotted scales and embodied closeness. She is the wake of time, the foamy child of a non complacent half-thought--spawned on a torrent-ridden forever. Her essence is no tangible thing, residing instead in fractional perplexities, in the whispers of a feverish manifestation.

Numerically, She is seventy-thrice-nine, the hollow number of peaked antiquary. It is the number of smooth sleep, stroking the subconscious to a peaceful osmosis. Her presence is thought, time, and the unimagined imaginings; the night-sweats of a racing intellect—the mind-pressing edge of a forgotten dream. Her name, if such a thing exists, is an unpronounceable tongue-slumber that no mortal can replicate (if they dare try), but the closest one can come is something like "Xanthga'wyn", Xanthga'wyn the time-walker, the dream-eater.

She is the lucid presence that dwells twixt the mezzanine of thought, the dark absorber of the clawed memories that cause anguish. Crouching like a gilded spider on the mind-webs, her fingers ensnare the harrowing speculations: the larvae of the stinging night-crawls that plague the mind in slumber. She gorges in constant gluttony, a parasite to all that is hideous and abhorrent, her pulpy claws forever stained with the vehement spittle of constant consumption.

Queen to all that is sordid and despised, her essentia gives the impression of a creature of expanse, being that seemingly can not be measured in space and miles, but in eons and ages. She is not composed of flesh and blood, yet she has shape. Her being is not made of matter or tangible things, but a confused sort of presence—like the almost-solid feeling stepping of one too many times going up a staircase.

In darkness she waits, lamenting in the festering oceans of memories that is her realm. Bound to the task of endless voracity, she waits for the day that the despairs of the living will cease. But as decay spreads like a locust across the fickle towers of man, that day becomes less and less of a reality. Instead we are faced with another possibility, one that is becoming more and more likely. Either Xanthga'wyn will be freed from her tepid prison by means of there simply being no more dark recollections to consume, or she will perish with the rest of us as the last sentient and tormented mind of man falls to the soil. Forgotten by everything but nothing, she will fade in to obscurity, for memory has no place if there is no one to imagine it.



"Mysterious Future" is a new independent bookstore, and it could not be more convenient for Redwood Writers. It is right next to the Arts Council of Sonoma County, where we have our monthly meetings. Mysterious Future specializes in mystery, science fiction and fantasy. A large venue, they carry both new releases and used books. And they are offering a ten percent discount to any member of Redwood Writers who visits the store on our next meeting day, Sunday, June 3. They also have a space for small group meetings. Open 10 to 6 Monday through Saturday, and 11 to 5 on Sundays, you can call Sharon or Ed Halton if you have any questions: 707 545 5828. The store address is 531 Fifth Street (between Mendocino Avenue and B St. - Ron Pasquariello



Script Frenzy www.scriptfrenzy.org is an international writing event in which participants attempt the creatively daring feat of writing an original, full-length screenplay—or stage play—in a single month. Spurred by a wild deadline and buoyed by a community of countless other writers, Script Frenzy participants can't be bothered with self-doubt—or editing. They're too busy writing by the seat of their pants, typing out beautiful, flawed stories that no one else could have dreamt up.

As part of a donation-funded nonprofit, Script Frenzy charges no fee to participate; there are also no valuable prizes awarded or "best" scripts singled out. Every writer who completes the goal of 20,000 words is victorious and awe-inspiring and will get a Script Frenzy Winner's Certificate and web icon proclaiming this fact. Even those who fall short of the word goal will be applauded for making a heroic attempt. Really, you have nothing to lose—except that nagging feeling that there's a script inside

you that may never get out.

The 5 Basic Rules of Script Frenzy

- 1) To be crowned an official Script Frenzy winner, you must write a script of at least 20,000 words and verify this word count on ScriptFrenzy.org.
- 2) You may write individually or in teams of two. Writer teams will have a 20,000 total word goal for their single co-written script.
- 3) Script writing may begin no earlier than 12:00:01 AM on June 1 and must cease no later than 11:59:59 PM on June 30, local time.
- 4) You may write either a screenplay or a stage play.
- 5) You must, at some point, have ridiculous amounts of fun.

Still unclear? Check out www.scriptfrenzy.org/helpfaq

The Disney•ABC Writing Fellowship

What It Is: Begun in 1990 in partnership with the Writers Guild of America, west, this has become one of the industry's best known and most respected writing fellowships. More than 200 alumni number among Hollywood's elite, including screenwriters, directors and television showrunners. A limited number of full-time fellowships are available each year for both feature film and television projects.

How It Works: Fellows receive a weekly salary for a one-year period, subject to change, but (currently amounting to \$50,000/year plus benefits). The program is an intensive, hands-on experience that involves workshops, seminars and mentorships with creative executives from ABC, ABC Television Studio, Disney Channel, ABC Family, Lifetime and Buena Vista Motion Pictures Group.

How to Apply: No previous professional experience is necessary, but strong writing samples are required.
http://www.abctalentdevelopment.com/programs_howtoapply_writers.asp

2. **Disney•ABC Creative Development Program (Formerly known as Scholarship-Grant Program)** The Scholarship-Grant Program is being revamped and enhanced, and will fall under the umbrella of the Creative Development Project. Please check back in for updates as they become available.

3. ABC Daytime Writing Fellowship Program

ABC Daytime's Writer Development Program seeks to identify creative talent interested in writing for daytime. We are looking for work that is character driven, relationship focused (familial, romantic, friendship) and emotionally rich and diverse (poignant, humorous, etc.).

If you are interested in the program and would like to submit your work, please contact daytimewriterprogram@abctv.com to request an application and release. (Do not submit any materials to this e-mail address. We cannot consider your work until you have signed and returned the required release.)

To be considered for the program, along with an executed copy of the signed release provided by us, submit a writing resume and an original writing sample which must have a logline that summarizes the work. Plays, screenplays or teleplays are preferred and work based on ABC programming cannot be accepted.

If read, candidates' work will be evaluated on characterization, uniqueness of voice, emotional engagement and other areas relevant to constituents of strong daytime drama. Please note that any work(s) read are evaluated as writing samples only and will be reviewed solely by ABC daytime. Writing samples are returned once/if reviewed and no copies will be retained.

4. IAIA/Disney•ABC Summer Television and Film Workshop

Disney•ABC Television Group, in partnership with The Walt Disney Studios, has developed a program for Native American writers, directors, and actors who aspire to work in the entertainment industry. This program is held at the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Since its inception in 1962, IAIA has had a major influence on the artistic, economic and social expression of Native Americans by offering programs to students who represent ninety percent of the tribal communities in the U.S.

This summer workshop, held on the IAIA campus, was designed to assist novice and experienced Native American screenwriters, filmmakers, directors and actors. The program also brings acclaimed executives, producers, screenwriters, directors and actors, both Native and non-Native, from the mainstream television and film world to work individually and collectively with the selected students. The summer workshop runs mid-June through July.

For information on how to apply to this program, please contact Beverly Morris at bmorris@iaia.edu or call 800-804-6422.



Writing for Change Conference August 24 and 25 at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco

Writing for Change 2007 www.sfwritingforchange.org is a conference created for writers of nonfiction books who believe that their book can have a positive impact in the world. From the personal to the planetary, the San Francisco Writers Conference believes that great nonfiction is Changing the World One Book at a Time. This is why we are devoting this conference to empowering writers who write for change in realms as diverse as the environment, spirituality, politics, health, technology, personal growth, business and the economy. If you believe that you have vision and knowledge that should be shared with others, then we want to increase your skills and your support system so that you can achieve your goal of becoming published. Attendees will have the chance to network, learn from and share their ideas with authors, agents, editors and publishing professionals from the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, and New York. Attendance is limited to 150 people.



A wry aside from the editor:

Media influencing media, this appears to be a new trend. Since such television shows as "American Idol" have introduced the idea that the viewing audience can influence the outcome of a commodity, in this case an aspiring singer, it didn't take long for that to percolate into other arenas. To wit, I bring you: **Project Publish** www2.mediapredict.com/projectpublish.

"Touchstone Books, an imprint of publishing company Simon & Schuster, Inc., is teaming up with Media Predict. Through our Project Publish contest, Touchstone Books will select a book proposal from our site for future publication.

What is Project Publish? Touchstone LogoVia Project Publish, Touchstone Books will be the first major publisher to put our market-based method for evaluating media content to the test. In October, a team of editors, including Touchstone publisher Mark Gompertz, will evaluate the 50 top scoring book proposals on Media Predict. They'll select five book proposals as Project Publish finalists, and eventually one grand prize winner.

The finalists will be announced the week of September 17, 2007. Trading in the five proposals will continue until October 9, when the winning proposal will be announced.

All proposals that appear on the Media Predict site between our launch and the announcement of finalists in September will be eligible for Project Publish. In the coming months, we'll add new submissions to the site on a regular basis. Submissions for Project Publish will come from both the general public as well as from literary agencies.

"Media Predict and Project Publish is an intriguing new way to evaluate content for publication," said Mark Gompertz, Executive Vice President and Publisher of Touchstone Fireside. "It is the ultimate pre-publication, market-based focus group. I look forward to following the market closely once trading gets underway and using

their lead to invest in a project for publication by Touchstone.”

Project Publish Timeline: May 21, 2007: The Media Predict site launches and Project Publish begins. Media Predict begins accepting new submissions for Project Publish.

Week of Sept. 17, 2007: Five proposals for the final stage of Project Publish are announced. Additional supporting content is posted on the Media Predict site. Media Predict users will then trade in the five proposals, trying to predict which proposal Touchstone editors will ultimately choose.

Oct. 9, 2007: One proposal is selected for future publication so long as the completed manuscript satisfies Touchstone’s publishing criteria.

Simon & Schuster, a part of the CBS Corporation, is a global leader in the field of general interest publishing, dedicated to providing the best in fiction and nonfiction for consumers of all ages, across all printed, electronic, and audio formats. Its divisions include Simon & Schuster Adult Publishing, Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing, Simon & Schuster Audio, Simon & Schuster Digital, and international companies in Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. For more information, visit their website at www.simonsays.com.

Another intriguing concept is using the Internet to promote your book. While not a particularly new concept, seeing how popular author blogs are, the newest twist is to have sites dedicated to multi-author promotion. morganmandelbooks.ning.com is hosting **Book Place**, which claims to be "A PLACE TO SHARE AND/OR PROMOTE BOOKS - SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE." Much like the current trendy blog, MySpace, Book Place invites people to start social networks. As of this writing, there are over 400 members.

And lastly, who among us hasn't read a book, watched a movie or television show and thought, "That's not how it should have gone. I could have done better." Fan fiction has long been a way to "remedy" that plot a writer didn't like or to pair up two (or more) characters who have never expressed the slightest interest in each other. Before the Internet, you had to search out fanzines or go to conventions or gatherings to feed your fannish reading interests. Nowadays, all one has to do is hit a search engine and type in a few terms and you'll be bombarded by hits. There is a new, very glossy site out there, **FanLib.com** www.fanlib.com. From their site:

"FanLib is dedicated to promoting and celebrating fan creativity.

Fan fiction has existed long before Al Gore invented the internet. Today, there are millions of fanfic writers and thousands of sites featuring fanfic. Since 2003, FanLib has led the fan fiction charge by producing online events that bring fans together with well-known creators and brands from the entertainment world (see some of our press).

Our mission is to bring fan fiction out of the shadows and into the limelight.

Now, with your help, we aim to make FanLib.com the best darn fan fiction site ever. Whatever your fancy — from The A Team to Zorro, anime to westerns — you're invited to showcase, discover, rant, and rave about them all.

Share your creativity. Share your opinions. Let us know what you think about the site so we can keep making it better. And, stay tuned... We've got a slew of great new features and fun events coming your way soon.

FanLib.com — Where the stories continue..."

The blogverse is having a field day with this.



Writers' Conferences and Events

June

2	<p>Mendocino Literary Festival www.mendolitifest.org, Ukiah a first-ever celebration of the literary arts on the campus of Mendocino College in the hills of California's North Coast wine country. Join us on June 1, 2007 for an opening night author event followed by a full day of activities with more than two dozen authors and other book people on Saturday the 2nd.</p> <p>Mendocino LitFest is an opportunity for word lovers, both writers and readers, to exchange ideas, share new books, and explore the cutting edge of publishing. The event's location in California's northern Wine Country affords the visitor a taste of small town rural life, including the tradition of intimate, family owned wineries and bed-and-breakfast inns, as well as easy access to oak-studded meadows, lush vineyards and towering redwoods.</p> <p>Mendocino LitFest will feature readings, discussions, workshops, storytelling, with more than two-dozen authors participating in this weekend event. LitFest is hosted at the campus of Mendocino Community College 1000 Hensley Creek Road Ukiah, California 95482</p>
3	<p>Redwood Writers Meeting 4-6 PM at the Arts Council of Sonoma County Gallery, 529 5th Street, Santa Rosa Elections for the 07-08 year.</p>
3	<p>826 Valencia 826 Valencia St. San Francisco 6-9pm proudly presents "Writing and Publishing the Novel," a benefit for the 826 Valencia tutoring center. Moderated by Tom Barbash(The Last Good Chance). Panelists include: Vendela Vida (Let the Northern Lights Erase Your Name), Matt Richtel (Hooked), Glen David Gold (Carter Beats the Devil), Laura Rennert (senior agent with Andrea Brown Literary Agency) and Cherry Muhanji (Her). Tickets: \$100. Spots reserved with Paypal through 826 Valencia's website.</p> <p>For more information, contact seminars@826valencia.com, or visit 826 Valencia's website: www.826valencia.org/workshops/adult/</p>
5	<p>The Center Literary Cafe 7-9pm Vilma Ginzberg will read from her new book of poetry <i>Murmurs and Outcries</i>. Vilma's subjects include word portraits of famous and unknown people, planetary concerns and enjoyments, the political scene, and experiences of aging. From her introduction to the poems, she says, "Most of these poems, written in the last three years, arose from two internal states: a place of gratitude and wonder, or from a place of outrage..... My garden...provides inspiration and metaphor for expressing the full range of these experiences..... Now crossing the portal of my eighties, I list among my daily gratitudes the survival of my capacity for awe and appreciation, as well as for appropriate outrage, both of which are expressed in "Murmurs and Outcries." (open mic as time allows) Healdsburg Senior Center (431-3324) 133 Matheson St. (one block east of Plaza). Light Refreshments. FREE (\$5 Donations encouraged)</p>
8-10	<p>book group expo: Chapter Two! San Jose Convention Center San Jose, CA Meet (famous) authors. Eat chocolate. Attend lively discussions. Taste wine. Have your books signed. Sample desserts. Meet other serious readers. Meet (not yet famous) authors. Savor fine tea. Browse books—lots of books—to your heart's content. Listen to literati. Enjoy friends. Eat more chocolate. Learn about book groups and book clubs. Have fun. Serious fun. For more information see www.bookgroupexpo.com or call 408-821-2967</p>
8-10	<p>Historical Novel Society Conference The Historical Novel Society's second North American conference will be held June 8-10, 2007, at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Albany, New York. This weekend-long conference will feature workshops, panels and keynote addresses on various aspects of fiction set in the past, and will present authors, readers, industry professionals and other historical fiction enthusiasts with a unique opportunity to celebrate the genre. www.historicalnovelsociety.org/albany/conference.htm Planned guests of honor are Bernard Cornwell, bestselling author of the Sharpe series, and Diana Gabaldon, bestselling author of the Outlander series.</p>
9	<p>FRIENDS, A FEW WORDS... 7-9pm 1623 F St., Building D, San Rafael (Please park only on 'D' spaces) <i>Sit with us in an evening of voice, imagination, and silence</i> <i>3 poets take a close look at the usual suspects</i> <i>life, death, love, nature</i> <i>and the everyday radiance of simplicity.</i></p>

Raphael Block will recite new work, including a cycle of poems, “Seven Faces of Gaia”.

Karl Frederick is unable to find words to describe himself. He has had such difficulty in even finding his “self,” he has begun to doubt the validity of the whole notion.

Sue Stephenson is a physician who has appreciated poetry for many years, and began writing intensely after the sudden death of her partner in June '03. Her style is graceful and simple, and she speaks openly of internal and spiritual themes.

The three will weave their work through poetic conversation and invite your responses. By Donation - for more info tel: 707-824-5875

GERI DI GIORNO 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Petaluma Community Center, 320 No. McDowell Blvd. Petaluma \$10 at the door

GERI DI GIORNO is the current Sonoma County Poet Laureate. She is founder and director of The Petaluma Poetry Walk. Her publishing credits include: White Lipstick, I'm Tap Dancing; a chapbook of poems, and several magazines, periodicals and journals.

For more information: Please visit **Marlene Cullen**'s website: www.thewritespot.us or contact Marlene at mcullen@comcast.net This event is sponsored by Petaluma Arts Council www.petalumaartscouncil.org and supported by Poets & Writers, Inc. through a grant it has received from the Hearst Foundation.

Book Passage Mystery Writers Conference 51 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera, CA 94925 www.bookpassage.com/content.php?id=44 2007 Conference Coordinator: Karen West, 1-800-999-7909, ext. 238 The four-day Book Passage Mystery Writers Conference has a strong tradition of great authors and teachers. It covers everything mystery writers need--from developing ideas and writing skills to finding a publisher. Students work closely with mystery writers, agents, editors, and publishers as well as investigators and crime-fighting professionals. In this conference, mystery writers learn the clues to a successful writing career.

The 2007 faculty is lining up to boast a great list of writers, publishers, agents, and crime-fighting professionals headed by Michael Connelly, Rhys Bowen, Tony Broadbent and Hallie Ephron. The Conference is chaired by mystery writers Sheldon Siegel and Jacqueline Winspear.

6th Annual Wellspring Writers' Workshop www.wellspringrenewal.org/events.html Facilitated by Todd Evans & Bob Stanley. Contact bobstanley@sbcglobal.net Or wellsprg@pacific.net

30-7/3 Westercon spfi.org/westercon60 San Mateo.

July

The Center Literary Cafe 7-9pm (open mic as time allows) Healdsburg Senior Center (431-3324) 133 Matheson St. (one block east of Plaza). Light Refreshments. FREE (\$5 Donations encouraged)

SUSAN BONO 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Petaluma Community Center, 320 No. McDowell Blvd. Petaluma \$10 at the door

SUSAN BONO is a writer, teacher and editor who has been publishing Tiny Lights, a journal of personal narrative, since 1995.

For more information: Please visit **Marlene Cullen**'s website: www.thewritespot.us or contact Marlene at mcullen@comcast.net This event is sponsored by Petaluma Arts Council www.petalumaartscouncil.org and supported by Poets & Writers, Inc. through a grant it has received from the Hearst Foundation.

2007 Book Passage Children's Writers & Illustrators Conference www.bookpassage.com/content.php?id=44 51 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera, CA 94925 Conference Coordinator: Karen West, 1-800-999-7909, ext. 238 This four-day Conference builds upon a strong tradition of Book Passage Conferences. We have taken the best of the classes that we have offered in children's writing, and put together a Conference that gives authors everything they need. The Conference covers all aspect of writing for children—from developing ideas and writing skills to finding a publisher. Students work closely with other writers and illustrators, as well as with agents, editors, and publishers. The Conference is designed to meet the differing needs of those who write for different age groups. Students choose an area of interest for the morning sessions—e.g. picture books, early readers, young adult books—and then work

with a teacher on the craft of writing such books. In the afternoons, students choose from panels of common interest, such as marketing and promotion. There will be many opportunities for faculty and students to talk, laugh, and exchange ideas in classes, workshops, panels, and informal lunches.

The cost of the four-day conference is \$425, which includes the opening night dinner and all lunches. Optional consultations are available to conference participants for an additional \$95



Writers' Competitions

FAMILY CIRCLE FICTION CONTEST www.familycircle.com/fc/story.jhtml NO ENTRY FEE Deadline August 31, 2007. Submit an original, fiction short story of no more than 2,500 words. Amateur writers who are legal residents of the 50 United States, and the District of Columbia, 21 years of age or older are eligible to enter. One (1) Grand Prize winner will receive a grand prize package including \$750, a gift certificate to a mediabistro.com course of his or her choice retail value ("RV") \$610, a one year mediabistro.com AvantGuild membership RV \$49 and possible publication in Family Circle magazine. Two (2) runners-up will each receive a runners-up prize package including \$250, a one year mediabistro.com AvantGuild membership RV \$49, and stories may appear on familycircle.com.

MIDDLE GRADE ADVENTURE CONTEST www.childrenswriter.com/ \$10 ENTRY FEE Entry period is August 1 to October 31, 2007. Winners are announced in the March, 2008 issue of Children's Writer. Prize structure is \$500 for first place plus publication in Children's Writer, \$250 for 2nd place, and \$100 for 3rd, 4th, and 5th places. The contest is for a story about an adventure, small or large, to 1,200 words, for ages 8 to 12. The adventure may take place in another genre, such as historical fiction, or fantasy, or may be contemporary. The antagonist or conflict may stem from other characters, from internal goals, from nature, society, or technology, but the story should balance plot and characterization. Stories will also be judged on age-targeting, originality, style, and the overall quality of writing. Publishability is the ultimate criterion.

THE VIRGINIA BRENDEMUEHL PRIZE www.rockandsling.org \$10 ENTRY FEE \$1,000 plus publication. Send 1-3 unpublished poems, a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) and entry fee to Rock & Sling, Attn: Virginia Brendemuehl Prize, P.O. Box 30865, Spokane, WA 99223. Please make your fee payable to Rock & Sling. The deadline is July 31, 2007, and contest results will be announced by early September. Finalists will also be published. No simultaneous submissions, please. Rock & Sling seeks poems that nudge up against Judeo-Christian faith in surprising and memorable ways, grappling with faith's tensions as well as its joys.

GLASS WOMAN PRIZE www.sigriddaughter.com/GlassWomanPrize.htm NO ENTRY FEE Awarded for a piece of short fiction or creative non-fiction written by a woman. Length: between 1 and 25 pages. The prize for the second award is US \$380 and online publication. Deadline September 21, 2007

St. Martin's Minotaur is teaming up with **Mystery Writers of America** for a NEW Best First Crime Novel Competition. minotaurbooks.com/competitions.html The Competition is open to any writer, regardless of nationality, who has never been the author of a published novel, as defined by the guidelines, (except that authors of self-published works only may enter, as long as the manuscript submitted is not the self-published work) and is not under contract with a publisher for publication of a novel. Only one manuscript entry is permitted per writer. All manuscripts submitted: a) must be original, previously unpublished works of book length (no less than 220 typewritten pages or approximately 60,000 words) written in the English language by the entrants; b) must not violate any right of any third party or be libelous, and c) must generally follow the guidelines.

Iris Chang Memorial Essay Contest irischangmemorialfund.net/Essay_contest_2007/07_ICMEC_policy_0202.html NO ENTRY FEE The essays will be in line with Iris Chang's spirit and passion in seeking the truth and justice as well as defending human rights. Topic: The Denial and Its Cost- Reflections on Nanking Massacre 70 years ago and beyond. Deadline June 30, 2007. Three best essays will be selected from all entries. The awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizewinners are \$1,000, \$500 and \$300, respectively. In addition, several honorable mention winners will be awarded with \$50 each.

Iris Chang Youth Award - a special award added this year. An award of \$200 each to the top three essays submitted by high school students. Only high school students whose essays are not selected for the overall top three prizes are eligible for these awards.

Opportunities

Loose Id loose-id.com wants to 'unleash' the power of love and sex to transform good stories into great ones. In order to do that, we're bringing down the walls between genres. Erasing the dividing lines between subgenres to give readers what they want.

At Loose Id, we want books that:

* Unleash love stories from traditional romance, fantasy, science fiction and genre formulas by crossing traditional genre lines. While we want a love story, the primary conflict need not be between hero(es) and heroine(s) (though a strong relationship conflict creates terrific story potential).

* Unchain love stories from 'happily ever after' endings by allowing the 'happy for now' ending. In the real world, relationships don't always proceed quickly and conflicts don't always resolve themselves neatly. Not everyone survives big, climactic battles. An ending can show the hero(es) and heroine(s) taking the next step toward 'forever'; or show the primary romantic characters getting what they want, but at great personal cost. Or, an ending can be the traditional, wonderful, always beloved 'happily ever after'.

* Unfetter love stories from traditional run-of-the-mill romance hero(es) and heroine(s). Though we love those Alpha-dominant heroes, we also love kick-ass Alpha heroines, gutsy gammas, and sexy subs. While straight heterosexual Caucasian romances are fine with us, everyone needs love in their lives. Bring us multi-culturalism, alternative lifestyles and sexualities, big, beautiful heroines—make your characters real. No bland characters or Mary Sues need apply.

See loose-id.com/prospective.aspx for more information.

Fictitious Force www.sciffy.com Fantasy, Science Fiction, Speculative Fiction. Featured Stories for the magazine: 2,000-7,500 words. 1 cent/word. It's a token payment. More than we can afford, less than you deserve. Welcome to the worst of both worlds.

Short-shorts used to fill the space between featured stories in the magazine: up to 1,999 words (preferred length under 750 words). \$5. Unless you've won a Hugo. (Remember: The John W. Campbell award is not a Hugo.) Then we'll negotiate.

Neglected Novellas for the website: 12,500 words or more. We will pay \$50 for any of these that we accept. Our standards are going to be ridiculously high on these for two reasons: (1) FF makes no commitment to publish stories on the website. It's whimsy, man. (2) We don't agree that the optimal length for SF is the Novella. In fact, we're not wild about the length for our own pleasure reading. We do know that it is a very difficult length to sell for lesser known writers. We believe some excellent novellas haven't found a home and would like to rectify that. If what we're getting is not excellent, there's no point in publishing it.

Yes, we will consider works of 7,501-12,499 for the website too, by popular demand. Call them "Nebulous Novelettes" if you must. We won't. We're thinking "Tweeners." On second thought, "Nebulous Novelettes" it is.

Noctem Aeternus Submissions will open June 1, 2007. First issue will hit streets January 1, 2008 Editor: Michael Knost Format: FREE Quarterly PDF Payment: Ten-cents per word on publication Reprints: NO Story length: Up to 4000 words (do not query about longer stories) Email submissions only. We will accept .doc or .rtf attachments ONLY. Do not copy and paste story into the body of your email - use this for your cover page. Send submissions or inquiries to submissions@michaelknost.com. Turnaround time should be six to eight weeks. If you have not received a response after eight weeks, send an inquiry but only AFTER eight weeks have passed since original submission.

We are looking for horror stories with a solid plot, strong character development, and attention to detail. Stories should also grab the reader's attention quickly and hold it until the end. Although a good story can include gore, we don't want gore for gore's sake.

We are looking for great horror stories. Stories can be about monsters, the paranormal, serial killers, or anything else that evokes fear. Science fiction, mystery, western, or fantasy elements are acceptable, however, there should be no doubt the story is horror. We do not want to see anything involving child abuse, pedophilia, or the like. Stories with vampires, werewolves, or other cliched horror topics will be a hard sell. However, if you think you have a tale that brings something original to a cliched topic, then send it along - just keep in mind, it will have a slim chance. Visit www.shunn.net/format/story.html for manuscript format.

Tales from the Clinic www.workerswritejournal.com will contain stories (fiction) from the healthcare worker's point of view. Your story can be set in a hospital, hospice, anywhere care is given (even an ambulance). Drop us a line if you have a question.

The deadline for submissions is August 1, 2007.

Submit your stories via e-mail to: clinic@workerswritejournal.com, or send a hard copy to: Blue Cubicle Press; P.O. Box 250382; Plano, TX 75025-0382

Futuristic Motherhood: Alternative Visions of Mothering is an anthology of speculative fiction stories about the future of motherhood. Publication date: November 2007 On publication, writers will receive \$100 plus 2 copies of the book. Submission Deadline: September 15th, 2007

Mama Specific Productions mspmedia.net/futuristic_motherhood_book.html is seeking submissions of speculative fiction stories. For the purposes of this book speculative fiction includes science fiction, fantasy, mystery and any sub-genres. The theme is motherhood in the future. Some things to prompt or give you ideas to start with: What do you imagine the function of motherhood to be? How do you think the image of motherhood will change? How do you think the image of motherhood will stay the same? What possible customs, norms or laws will be in place in the future that would have an impact on changing or affecting mothers? How will science and technology affect pregnancy, birth, and child rearing? How might full social equality affect childcare in the home and workplace? How does a lack of social equality in a highly technological society affect pregnancy, birth, and childcare? How about in a future culture with a highly evolved social order but low technology?

Maximum story length is 7,500 words. You may submit more than one story but only one story will be selected per writer. Please include a bio up to 500 words.

Reprints: If you're sending us a reprint please include the last place your story was published. Also let us know if your story is currently available in any other online venues or publications. We are paying you for the right to print your story in this book. You retain full rights to your story even if it is new and can reprint it elsewhere. Send stories either in the body of the email or as a RTF file or MS Word attachment to [trula at MSPmedia dot net](mailto:trula@MSPmedia.net)

MIRRORSTONE ww2.wizards.com/books/mirrorstone/Submissions.aspx Mirrorstone is interested in considering proposals for chapter books, standalone novels, and series fiction, aimed at children and young adults ages 6-9, 8-12, or 12 and up. We will consider most forms of speculative fiction: high fantasy, low fantasy, horror, science fiction, or mystery. We are not interested in realistic fiction. We are currently not interested in picture books or picture book series.

Shannon Road Press www.shannonroadpress.com/index.php Publishes only Mystery Fiction. We publish quality short stories and novels with special emphasis given to talented new writers. We do not require authors to have an agent. If you have one already, fine, but we prefer dealing direct.

Manic D Press www.manicdpress.com/ An award-winning literary press based in San Francisco, California publishing fiction, poetry, pop culture, music, art, narrative-oriented comix, and alternative travel books, we represent a diverse group of unique writers and artists, with emphasis on those who have been shunned by the traditional publishing establishment for lacking commercial viability, regardless of their talent or future promise.

Dead Letter Press www.deadletterpress.com is seeking stories of Books Gone Bad. Tom English of Dead Letter Press is now reading submissions for an anthology of "books gone bad." He isn't releasing the title of the project, but is project a limited edition of only 150 or 200 hardcover copies.

According to the guidelines, "Stories should be about books that do not belong in a sane person's library; books that wreck havoc in the lives of their owners; books that are no damn good! The 'bad' book in your story should be central to the plot. The book should exert an emotional, or a physical, or a supernatural effect on the characters, or on reality, or time, or space. The book should be the villain of your story. Perhaps a sympathetic villain, or an unwitting accomplice to evil—but nevertheless, the book should be a 'character' in your story, play a major role, and be 'on stage' for a good part of the tale. You can think of this as 'the secret lives and evil times of diabolical books.' In fact, that's the tag line."

English is looking for stories between 4,000 and 12,000 words, and paying 1 cent per word plus two copies. He'll also consider reprints at \$25 to \$60 per story. Submissions should be sent to [DeadLetterPress at cox.net](mailto:DeadLetterPress@cox.net) with "books gone bad" in the subject line.